

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Reservation, request, allocation, assignment and application protocols for conserving addresses requiring unique allocation from a finite address domain.

5 In accordance with the protocols, a set of addresses within the domain are reserved for "intra-switch only" applications so as to be allocable to a plurality of organizations for assignment and application in a plurality of switches without introducing addressing ambiguities into networks. Other addresses within the domain not having the "intra-switch only" restriction are reserved for a single
10 organization so as to be assigned and applied in a single device to avoid introducing addressing ambiguities into networks. The addresses may be MAC addresses.

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